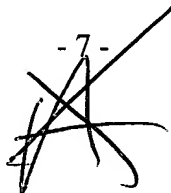


is enclosed. With respect to the newly added claims, as 45 claims have been cancelled (for which the claim fee was already paid), and 52 new claims have been added, it is believed that fees are due for the 7 additional new claims. The excess claim fee is enclosed. Should any further funds be necessary in connection with this response, the Commissioner is directed to debit our deposit account, Account No. 02-2105 for any additional amounts required, and is also directed to credit any overpayments thereto.

In the Office Action, the Examiner set forth a restriction requirement, requiring that the present application be restricted to one of six designated groups of claims. In response, Applicant hereby elects the invention of Group I, without traverse, and has cancelled the nonelected claims. Applicant has further added new Claims 50-101. As these claims are all directed to the method of the present invention, it is believed that they are likewise properly within Group I.

Claims 1-4 of the present invention are the same as the claims presented in the corresponding PCT application on this invention, International Application Number PCT/US97/20533. In the International Search Report issued in that application, no references were uncovered relevant to those claims. Accordingly, those claims and the claims dependent thereon are all believed to be allowable. Likewise, Claim 80, which is similar to Claim 1, although broader in scope, is also believed allowable. The dependent claims, most of which include subject matter which is believed to be independently patentable, are likewise all believed to be fully patentable.

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A favorable Office Action allowing all of the claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner require anything further, he is invited to contact counsel at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: February 1, 1999

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "m. cohen", followed by a horizontal line.

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